

Deroche Elementary School

Mission School District #75



*“Forest & Stream” Learning Site  
and Outdoor Classroom Program*

***Our Book of Thank Yous*** 2016-2018

# Project Plans, Letters of Support & Approval Process



Thank you to the various groups and individuals who helped us through the approval process including our Mission School District Superintendent, Facilities Director and School Board Trustees.

We'd also like to thank the following individuals for their letters of support: FVRD Regional Directors, Al Stobbart and Alec Niemi; DFO Community Advisor Robert Schaefer; SVSES Director Jim Taylor; Fraser Valley Watershed Coalition Manager Natasha Cox; Leq'a:mel Land and Environment Project Manager Stacey Goulding; Communities in Bloom Reps Bill Elliot & Denyse Tavener; and local business owner Lesa Lacey from Lacey Construction Ltd.

Thank you to our Environmental Consultant, Jason Barsanti who was instrumental in getting us through the approval process with the Ministry of FLNRO. We are grateful to your company for waiting a significant portion of the QEP fees.

Thank you to the Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Seabird Island, People of the River Referral Office, Peters Band and the Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group for granting us the necessary approvals to begin our site work. We are very enthusiastic about our "Forest & Stream" Stewardship Program. As well as restoring habitat with significant value to the area's salmonid population, the project will strengthen the school's long standing commitment to environmental studies and First Nations culture.

# Getting Started ...



TOYOTA | EVERGREEN  
LEARNING GROUNDS



*In February of 2017 Toyota Evergreen Learning Grounds provided us with enough funding to purchase some of our start-up equipment including rakes, shovels and a wheelbarrow. This allowed us to begin our trail work leading into our outdoor classroom area. It was the start of our “Forest & Stream” Program! Thank You ☺*

*Thank you also to Tom Cassel from TW Excavating for donating a load of gravel so we could begin our trail work over the berm and thank you to FVRD for providing the funding to assist with our start-up costs and Government Application fees.*



## Blackberry Removal and Replanting Event ...



*Thank you to our group of dedicated volunteers, especially the MacLean family and FVWC Field Crew for the labour intensive task of removing the overgrown blackberries and*

*Thank You Fraser Valley Watershed Coalition and Leq'a:mel for coordinating a streamside replanting event with students. This was a great learning opportunity for our students and an important part of our stream restoration work.*

# Construction of Bridge and Trails ...



Mission  
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PACIFIC  
SALMON

RBC  
Blue Water  
Project™



*In March of 2018 we installed a bridge across the stream and continued our trail building throughout the forest and stream area. A special thank you to Tom Cassel and Ian Kerr (TW Excavating) and the MacLeans who volunteered their time to install the bridge for us. The construction of our bridge was made possible by donations from the Sasquatch Lions Club, FVRD, and funding from our School District. The trail building was made possible by a grant from the Pacific Salmon Foundation. PSF and the RBC Blue Water Project also provided funding for stream restoration work and aquatic supplies. We are very grateful for the volunteers who have continued to help with the project and to the various groups who have invested in our program.*

# Chum Salmon Release ...



*Thank you to DFO Community Advisor Bob Schaefer, and James Weger & Isaac Nelson from Inch Creek Hatchery for coordinating our first fish release on April 20, 2018. It was a very rewarding day for students as they released over 40,000 Chum Salmon into the stream! This was truly a day of thanks and we look forward to many more stewardship opportunities as part of our "Forest and Stream" Program.*

# Construction of Outdoor Structure ...



*In December 2018 we began construction of our Outdoor Learning Structure. Thank you to the following supporters who contributed to the material costs for the structure: the Lions Club, Celebrate Foundation, FVRD, and Deroche PAC. A special thank you to Lacey Construction for overseeing the project and providing labour for the build.*

# Deroche Elementary

## Forest & Stream Program

Highlights





